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STATE OF DELAWARE,

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.

DOVER, February 7, 1865

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Delaware, in General Assembly met :

The Congress of the United States, by the requisite majority of both Houses, has submitted the following Constitutional amendment to the Legislatures of the several States for ratification :

ART. XIII.—SEC. 1. Neither Slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

SEC. 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Having received official information of the vote cast in Congress, I take the earliest opportunity to lay the amendment before the General Assembly. In doing so, I must express my hearty concurrence in its object, and recommend most earnestly its immediate ratification.

A due regard to the claims of impartial justice; to the unity, welfare, and purity of our Government; to the necessity of removing the cause of our present unhappy civil strife; to a re-union of our country upon a sure basis; to a speedy return of permanent and honorable peace; and to the cause of enlightened progress commends this step to our warmest sympathies. Opportunity is offered to men of all parties to unite, with devoted loyalty, upon measures that promise the most salutary results; and each one can now share in the honor of declaring that henceforth and forever the REPUBLIC SHALL BE FREE.

Let us start upon a new career of liberty, happiness and prosperity; let us build up for posterity a pure and free government; let us dignify the labor to which, in the Providence of God, each one of us is called; let us make the immortal Declaration a glorious and beneficent fact; and let us render thanks and praises to God, Whose service is perfect freedom, for the progress that we are making, under His guidance and in obedience to His will, in consummating the highest and noblest purpose of human government—universal religious, civil, and personal liberty.

WILLIAM CANNON.

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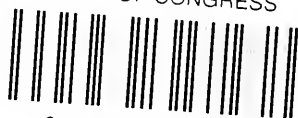
Oct 5, 12 Mr. 12

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